

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
November 28, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:32 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Pastor Bob Szoke, Impact Christian Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** Mrs. Uzelac was absent. All other members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

President Hardaway read and presented a Proclamation to the **Andrean Class 2A Volleyball State Champs**. The Town of Merrillville extends congratulations to the team on their major accomplishment.

President Hardaway read and presented a Proclamation to the **Andrean Class 3 Spell Bowl State Champs**. The Town of Merrillville extends congratulations to the team on their major accomplishment.

Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the placement of identification flags in front of Andrean High School. The flags will be purchased by Andrean High School. Mr. Minchuk seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

The Town of Merrillville recognized Gino's Steakhouse with a Commitment of Excellence Award for the most appealing façade for the month of November. Mr. Guernsey presented a plaque to Gino's Steak House in recognition of this honor.

The President of Merrillville Pop Warner made a presentation to the Town Council to request support of a donation for the Merrillville Pop Warner. Discussion followed. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve a donation of \$500 to support Merrillville Pop Warner. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway said a congratulatory letter was received from the congregation at Our Lady of Consolation Church thanking the Town of Merrillville for a donation toward their second annual First Responders fundraiser.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated November 28, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of November 14, 2017. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit provided information regarding the property tax assessment appeal awarded to Meijer. This successful appeal resulted in Meijer receiving a refund of more than \$2 million with the reviewed assessments going back 12 years. Discussion followed regarding the financial impact this matter will have on the Town of Merrillville.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

Mr. Minchuk had no report. Mr. Spires provided an update regarding leaf pick up for the Town. Discussion followed.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Uzelac was absent, no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mrs. Barron said there two Insurance meetings that took place and resulted in minimal phone calls related to the subject.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Uzelac was absent, no report. Mr. Minchuk commended Chief Petruch as well at the Police Officers who assisted with apprehending an armed robbery suspect that was committing crimes in surrounding areas.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca reminded everyone that the Santa Procession will be Friday, December 1, 2017 at 6 p.m. The procession will start at Merrillville Intermediate School and travel to the Pruzin Park.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mr. Spann had no report.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway had no report.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 17-30:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana amending the municipal code to adopt by reference the 2014 Indiana Fire Code for enforcement by the Merrillville Fire Department and Merrillville Town Court. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. Mr. Bushemi provided a detailed explanation for the reasoning of the ordinance. Discussion followed. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 17-31:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, amending the municipal code to assess liens on real property and prohibit renewal of town business licenses for delinquent business false alarm fines. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Mr. Bushemi provided additional information regarding business false alarms and delinquent fines. Discussion followed. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 17-27:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Casino fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 17-28:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, fixing the Parks Non-Reverting Program Fees for the Year 2018. Ms. LaMarca made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**Ord. 17-29:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana establishing fees for the release of liens related to town costs incurred to remedy certain property conditions. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment. President Hardaway provided an explanation for the reasoning of the ordinance. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 17-34:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the General fund. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 17-35:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, concerning the holiday schedule for the calendar year of 2018. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**Res. 17-36:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the General fund. Mr. Spann made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:**

**Petitioner:** Chinmaya Northwest Indiana, Inc.  
**Owner:** Chinmaya Northwest Indiana, Inc.  
**Request:** Special exception approval  
**Purpose:** Proposed Sunday School  
**Location:** 8705 Merrillville Road  
**Zoning:** R-5, Medium Density Multi-Family  
**Case #:** Z44E19-1117  
**Conditions:** For this petitioner only, at this location only, for this use only.

Sheila Shine provided the Staff Report for the request. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Spann. Discussion followed regarding the need for an additional developmental variance filed with the BZA. Further discussion followed. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Police Commission meeting, December 1, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

Santa’s Procession & Christmas Lighting Ceremony, December 1, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.  
(Santa will be leaving MIS-1400 W 61st Ave & will be traveling east on 61st Ave. to Harrison St. then North to the Pruzin Park-5750 Tyler St.)

Stormwater Management Board meeting, December 5, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop, December 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Council workshop, December 12, 2017 at 5:15 p.m.

Town Council meeting, December 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

Saint Sava Christmas Dinner for foster children, December 15, 2017 from 5-9 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Mrs. Barron.

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**Richard Hardaway, President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**